	Scheme	Targets 1995-96	Achievements as on 31-03-1996	Targets 1996-97
	(ii) Upgradation of Computer system	-	-	4
g.	Speed Post			
	(i) Track & Trace System	20	6	4
h.	Provision of upgraded equipment	200	245	200
2.	**Expansion of Postal Network:**			
a.	Opening of Extra-departmental branch offices	80	4	80
b.	Opening of Departmental Sub-Offices	150	53	150
c.	Opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras	500	497	250

The programmes for the year 1996-97 are under implementation an achievements can be quantified only after completion of the period.

[English]

Postal Services in Rural Areas

3442. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the mail delivery and other postal services in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government systematically monitors and reviews at the field and Headquarters level the delivery of mails in the rural areas. Other postal services in the rural areas are also periodically subjected to scrutiny and review. There is also a system of conducting regular surveys through inspectorial staff for examining the justification of opening Post Offices.

(b) The Postal Services in the rural areas are generally satisfactory but occasional delays in delivery of mails do occur due to unforeseen transportation problems and other such reasons beyond the control of the Department.

(c) (i) The review of delivery of mails is an ongoing process. The reasons for delays to mails, if any, are identified by carrying out surveys at different levels.

(ii) The Postal services are being extended progressively by opening new Post Offices. Under the 8th Five Year Plan, so far, 1312 Post Office have been sanctioned in the rural areas of the country.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance for the Welfare of Tribals

3443. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign institutions have provided financial assistance to the organisations of different States in the country, particularly in Gujarat for the welfare of tribals during the last three years and till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various organisations in Gujarat have misused the financial assistance received from foreign institutions;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have received any complaints in this regard during the last three years;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(f) the details of guidelines being issued by the Union Government to the State Governments to ensure the proper utilisation of financial assistance being received from abroad for the welfare of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes; and

(g) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government against those social organisations which are not

spending this amount of foreign financial assistance for the welfare of poor tribal people?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (g). The information is being gathered and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

[English]

Assistance to Voluntary Organisations

3444. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Central Scheme for providing assistance to Voluntary Organisations engaged in serving persons with cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation for manpower development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b). A Plan scheme providing for grant-in-aid upto 100% to Non-Governmental Organisations for developing Organisations for developing organisational and infrastructural facilities for manpower training and provision of hostel facilities and other assistance required for imparting training to various categories of workers/trainers in the field of Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation has been launched in the 8th Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 5 crores. A provision of Rs. 30 lakhs has been kept under this scheme during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Diamond Mines

3445. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether diamond mines have been found at Devbhog in Raipur district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to suitably improve the management of the said diamond mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) As per information available there are no Diamond mines in Devbhog area of Raipur.

(b) Does not arise.

Finance Corporation for Development of Maithils

3446. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Finance Corporation has been set up for the development of Maithils;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the above Corporation likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

Revision of Rates

3447. SHRI RAMSAGAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether undue long time is taken to give approval to revision of rates and approval of suppliers in the Super Bazar as a result of which the supplies to the consumers are affected;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to cut down the delay and to bring efficiency in the working of the Super Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, no undue long time is taken to give approval to the revision in rates and approval of suppliers. It is usually done immediately for fast moving items and within a week or two for slow moving goods. This does not effect supplies to the consumers.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Licensed Agents for Selling Postal Stationery

3448. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: